UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.151/PC/91
28 August 1991

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Third session
Geneva, 12 August-4 September 1991
Working Group II
Agenda item 2

PROTECTION OF OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Letter dated 13 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Sir,

Further to my letter of 6 August 1991 (CNUAD-252/91), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Declaration of the Ministers for the Environmental Areas of the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa and of Portugal signed on 19 June 1991 at Lisbon, for circulation at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED.

(Signed) Luís Octávio Roma de Albuquerque
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Annex

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS OF THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND OF PORTUGAL

Meeting on the nineteenth day of July in Lisbon, the Ministers for the Environmental Areas of the Portuguese-speaking African Countries and Portugal:

Underlined the particular importance of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992, in accordance with resolution No. 44/228 of the United Nations General Assembly.

Proposed to make every effort to ensure that this Conference may contribute to significant advances in Environmental Policy at a world level. Therefore,

I. Stated the basic problems to be dealt with are:

- Relations between the climate and socio-economic development

. The necessary convention to be signed in June 1992 should contribute to the determination of global objectives, but be adaptable to the diverse stages of development of countries/regions to allow for balanced economic evolution as regards energy consumption. In this context new forms of energy need to be found to overcome the dichotomy energy consumption/climatic alterations. It does not appear to be necessary to create new international institutes in this area.

- Biological diversity

This question needs to be considered from two angles:

. To preserve the genetic heritage of the planet, conditions should be created for the conservation of species of flora and fauna and also habitats.

. The setting up of financial mechanisms, preferably within the context of UNEP, which provides support for projects which involve the transfer of technology.

. Integration of the environmental component into all cooperation programmes and projects for development and the need for these to be accompanied by studies of the environmental impact.

. Further adjustment of programmes and projects to the realities of the benefiting country and its capacity for sustainable use of natural resources.

. Adaptation of training and technical assistance programmes and projects aimed at providing a more useful exchange of information which is essential to ensuring the success of necessary transfers of technology.

. To ensure rational administration of water resources, both qualitatively and quantitatively, in a regional framework, bearing in mind the principle of polluter/payer and user/payer in the context of hydrographic basins and the ambit of values of international solidarity.

. Priority to be given to the problems involved in providing drinking water and basic sanitation, which are essential to the ensuring of minimum health standards and the quality of life.

. Greater support for programmes and projects designed to classify and study the natural resources of each country with a view to developing activities that will solve problems of erosion, desertification and degradation of the littoral.

. Further disbursement of funds to create protected areas, so they will cover a sufficient percentage of the area of each country.

. Compensation to countries and individuals, in that they contribute to an asset, common to the whole of humanity. These compensations may be used to promote sustainable development.

- Protection and administration of forests

. The different uses of forest land (economic, scientific, ecological and social) should be compatible with the sustainable development of each country.

- Environmental education

. Educational measures should be adopted to encourage development, awareness, efficiency and community involvement in the administration and protection of natural resources.

II. Considered that more potent steps and strategies should be found to solve environmental problems at global, regional and local levels, with special emphasis on the principles of solidarity and international and trans-frontier cooperation.

III. Submitted that the Conference should reformulate policies of cooperation currently practised by both countries and international organizations so a NEW WORLD ORDER OF COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT would be set up, based on the following guidelines:

- Trusting in greater solidarity between Nations in the creation of still further programmes to combat poverty which is perceived as an aggravating factor in the degradation of the environment.

- Reassessment of the debts of developing countries in a global perspective of coresponsibility in the conservation of nature and natural resources.

- Trusting in the greater participation by society in the defining of priorities in environmental and development policies, with particular emphasis on non-governmental organizations.

IV. Decided:

- To convocate a Ministerial Conference of the Portuguese-speaking countries, in Guinea-Bissau, before the end of the current year, to plan the intervention of these countries in UNCED, thus seeking to ensure mechanisms of political and technical cooperation to implement the aforementioned principles.

- This declaration to be submitted at the next Preparatory Meeting of Conference/Brazil 1992 to be held in Geneva in August 1991.

FOR THE DELEGATION OF ANGOLA

FOR THE DELEGATION OF CAPE VERDE

FOR THE DELEGATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU

FOR THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE

FOR THE DELEGATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

FOR THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL